

predisposed to a particular ectodermal disorder, with an agent which specifically binds and modulates the functional expression of a human TAJ gene or gene product, wherein:

- (a) the cell is an ectodermal cell; or
 - (b) the cell is a germ cell which gives rise to progeny ectodermal cells and the method further comprises the step of detecting the functional expression of the TAJ gene or gene product in the progeny cells.
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REMARKS

The foregoing proposed amendments restrict application of the method to a host predetermined to be at elevated risk of having or being predisposed to a particular ectodermal disorder. This embodiment is described, inter alia, in Examples IV and VI and the proposed amendment introduces no new matter.

This proposed amendment is intended to emphasize that the claims do not require that the practitioner make large numbers of clinical correlations, expressly requiring that the particular disorder be predetermined as applicable to the subject cell. We wish to ensure that the Examiner considers the same claim scope that we intend, and solicit from the Examiner any amendment(s) that might be made to more effectively define the invention.

This proposed amendment is being filed simultaneously with an appeal of the outstanding enablement rejection of the pending claims.

Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overcharges relating to this communication to our Deposit Account No. 19-0750 (order no. UTSD:0680).

Respectfully submitted,
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